

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to an Office Action mailed June 27, 2007. Prior to this response, claims 1-29 were pending. After amending claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-17, 19-22, and 27-28, canceling claims 7 and 18, and adding claims 30 and 31, claims 1-6, 8-17, and 19-31 remain pending.

In Section 3 of the Office Action, objections are made to Fig. 1b. In response, a Replacement Drawing Sheet is enclosed addressing the concerns raised in the Office Action.

In Section 4 of the Office Action, objections are made to Figs. 2a and 2b. In response, Replacement Drawing Sheets are enclosed that label the figures as "prior art".

In Section 5 of the Office Action, objections are made to Fig. 5. In response, a Replacement Drawing Sheet is enclosed. Fig. 5 now matches the explanation of the figure found in the specification in the first paragraph of page 15.

In Section 6 of the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for failed to show every feature of the claimed invention. In response, Replacement Sheets are enclosed for Figs. 5 and 8. Figs. 5 and 8 have been modified to show the features recited in claims 5-7 (20-22). Since these features are described in the specification in a number of contexts, no new matter has been added to the application.

Sections 7 and 8 object to the specification. In response, the specification has been amended as suggested in the Office Action.

In Section 10 of the Office Action, objections are made to claims 1-29 under 37 CFR 1.75(a). In Sections 10 and 11, the Office

Action objects to a perceived ambiguity in the phrase “a scanning device” and “a scan job”. In response, the Applicant submits that the practice of finding antecedent basis in terms initially presented in the preamble is not universal. However, in the interest of advancing the claims to issue, claims 1 and 15 have been amended to recite “the scanning device” in the fourth lines of claims 1 and 15, as suggested in the Office Action. Likewise, the claims have been amended to recite “the scan job”.

With respect to the objections made in Sections 12-17 and 19-20 of the Office Action, the claims have been amended to address the issue of whether the recited claim elements are unique and distinctly different.

With respect to the objections made in Section 18, claim 19 has not been amended. Claim 15 initially recites “a scanned document”. Claim 19 initially introduces “a document”, which is input to the scan unit. The output of the scan unit is the previously introduced “scanned document”.

In Sections 22 and 23, claims 2-7, and 16-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as indefinite. In response, the claims have been amended to replace “the group” with –a group--.

In Section 25 of the Office Action, claims 1, 8-9, 15, and 23-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Maniwa (US 5,764,866).

In Section 27 of the Office Action, claims 2-3, 5, 16-17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable with respect to Maniwa in view of Struble (7,142,333).

Section 28 of the Office Action states that claims 10-13 and 25-29 would be found allowable in rewritten in independent form, including all the subject matter of the base and intervening claims.

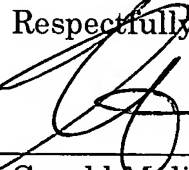
Sections 29 and 30 of the Office Action states that claims 4, 6-7, 18-19, and 21-22 would be found allowable if the above-mentioned 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections were addressed. As noted above, the claims have been amended to address the rejections for indefiniteness. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7, now canceled. All claims dependent from claim 1 should now be found allowable. Claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18, now canceled. All claims dependent from claim 15 should now be found allowable. In addition, new claim 30 has been added, which combines the subject matter of claims 1 and 4. New claim 31 has been added, which combines the subject matter of claims 15 and 26. Note: the Applicant neither expressly agrees nor disagrees with the states reasons for allowability of the claims.

Applicant has reviewed the references made of record and asserts that the claims are patentable over the references made of record. It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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